



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Agenda Item 3

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Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

**Policy Advisory Council
April 14, 2010
Minutes**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Chair Scott Haggerty called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members in attendance were Naomi Armenta, Cathleen Baker, Paul Branson, Richard Burnett, Joanne Busenbark, Carlos Castellanos, Andrew Casteel, Bena Chang, Ann Hancock, Richard Hedges, Allison Hughes, Dolores Jaquez, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Randi Kinman, Federico Lopez, Marshall Loring, Evelina Molina, Cheryl O'Connor, Kendal Oku, Lori Reese-Brown, Gerald Rico, Frank Robertson, Dolly Sandoval, Egon Terplan, Abigail Thorne-Lyman. Wilbert Din and Carmen Rojas were excused.

MTC Commissioner Dorene Giacomini was also in attendance.

Chair Haggerty introduced himself and welcomed the new members of the Council. Deputy Executive Director for Policy Ann Flemer asked members and staff to introduce themselves. Ms. Jaquez thanked staff for selecting so many women to the new Council, and several other members made comments as to the richness of diversity in the group.

Orientation

Ms. Flemer presented an overview of MTC. Topics included transportation basics, structure, partner agencies, Commissioners, and MTC's committees. She noted that the Council's two meetings in June and July would continue the orientation process, including an overview of the planning work of the agency and transportation funding. Ms. Jaquez asked how MTC partners with the CHP. Ms. Flemer said through an Executive Committee of MTC, Caltrans, and the CHP, and also in delivering the Freeway Service Patrol and incident management.

Deputy Executive Director for Operations Andy Fremier presented the agency's staff organization and an overview of the three agencies that make up MTC. Ms. Flemer went on to present some policy issues that would likely be on the Council's agenda. Mr. Robertson asked how MTC was involved with the Oakland Airport Connector project. Ms. Flemer said MTC's involvement is based on its commitment to bring BART to the Oakland airport as part of the region's transit expansion policy. MTC voted to commit federal stimulus funds to the project. However, the FTA notified BART, as the project sponsor, that BART had not completed a Title VI report prior to seeking federal funding. Due to project delivery deadlines associated with ARRA funding, MTC ultimately moved the funding to other projects in order to ensure the region did not lose

– more –

Orientation (continued)

the funds. Ms. Hancock asked who on staff was responsible for climate issues. Ms. Flemer responded primarily Doug Kimsey and Ashley Nguyen, and also the Legislation and Public Affairs section with regard to outreach.

Mr. Fremier continued the presentation with an overview of the work and revenues related to the Bay Area Toll Authority, the Seismic Retrofit Program, and the two regional bridge toll measures. Mr. Terplan asked if a policy existed on how to spend toll revenues. Mr. Fremier said there is not much latitude involved due to the structure of the law. Mr. Casteel asked if tolls would be eliminated once the projects were completed. Mr. Fremier replied that tolls would remain in place due to bonding against the toll structure and future revenue streams. Mr. Castellanos stated that HOT lane revenue issues should be a topic of discussion within the Policy Advisory Council.

In closing, Mr. Fremier reviewed the resources available to advisors. Ms. Molina asked for more information on MTC's outreach efforts. Ms. Flemer said that the Commission adopts a Public Participation Plan, and staff will seek the Council's input for the next update of that plan.

Mr. Hedges commended staff for the orientation. Ms. Flemer noted that staff is committed to being involved with the Policy Advisory Council. She noted that any questions can be directed to Pam Grove, the Council's staff liaison, who will be able to connect advisors with the MTC staff person who is most knowledgeable on the subject.

Administrative Issues

Ms. Grove reviewed several administrative procedures related to the Policy Advisory Council including a review of the items in the handbook, information on submitting reimbursement/stipend forms, and information on ethics training. She noted that a chair and a vice chair must be selected at a future meeting. She also announced that nominations are underway for MTC's Transportation Awards. Nominations are due April 30 and can be submitted online. Ms. Hancock announced that Sonoma County is also awarding \$3,500 in prizes for financing and policy solution ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the deadline is April 16. Ms. Flemer commented that MTC's High School internship program – a program that was started by the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee, a former MTC advisory group – generated over 350 applications this year. She commented this is the kind of important program that MTC advisors have and can create. Ms. Grove reminded members to register for the April 22 ABAG/MTC General Assembly summit by the end of the day.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.